

# EXSUM - MILITARY TRANSITION COUNCIL

December 9, 2014 – 10:00 – 12:00

McGavick Conference Center, Clover Park Technical College, Lakewood, WA

**Focus on Small Business and Entrepreneurship** – How to Make the Small Business Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Veteran Ready. WA is leading the way in pioneering different programs for transitioning service members interested in choosing entrepreneurship and small business ownership.

Agenda, presentation slides, and EXSUM can be found on the WDVA Website under the Military Transition Council:

<http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/washington-state-military-transition-council-wsmtc>

**Attendance** – Approximately 160 people attended the event, however only 123 signed in.

## **ASKS' Status –**

Ann Reiter briefed the WSMTC on the public sector survey results and told the council the private sector survey will be sent out early 2015 by the regional Workforce offices (see Public Survey Results portion of this EXSUM).

Heidi Audette briefed that the WSMTC webpage is operational as of 3 December 2014:

<http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/washington-state-military-transition-council-wsmtc>. Each Track Workgroup has a webpage to populate. (see Website Update portion of this EXSUM).

IslandWood – informally proposed an ASK for a liaison between the WSMTC and IslandWood. The WDVA hired Frank O'Donnell last month to perform the liaison function between the different Track Workgroups and the WSMTC council.

Small Business/Entrepreneurship Track, Employment Track, Career and Technical Track, and IslandWood informally asked that the WSMTC works together to identify and endorse the key regionally aligned career and job fairs possibly based on the 7 Industries.

## **Briefing Summaries –**

We were honored to have Gary Sinise – actor and advocate of America's servicemen and women, and LTG David Halverson – Commanding General US Army Installation Command, join our meeting make comments to our council.

Gary Sinise Bio link - <http://www.garysinisefoundation.org/bio>

LTG Halverson Bio Link - <http://www.imcom.army.mil/about/commander.aspx>

Mr Sinise is the spokesman for Get Skills to Work initiative which helps connect service members and veterans with skills training in advanced manufacturing for careers in the manufacturing sector, or help identifying certified training in skills they'll need to compete for advanced opportunities in the manufacturing field.

"There is a skills gap in the manufacturing industry, raising awareness about transitioning veterans from the military to these jobs – building that bridge between the military and the private sector is why I am here today." The program seeks to match 100,000 veterans by the end of 2015 with some of the more than 600,000 unfilled high-tech manufacturing jobs in the country.

Info: <http://www.getskillstowork.org>

Mr Sinise also discussed the importance of making an educated transition from military to civilian life and the opportunities available and that, “the work being done here at JBLM to assist veteran transition to civilian jobs is a model for the country to follow.”

LTG Halverson thanked the WSMTC for their collective efforts to ease veteran transition into civilian life. He stated he wanted to see first-hand what is being dubbed as “the model for the rest of the country” in regards to the military-community partnership that made the Service Member for Life Summit such a success. He intends to share his observations and the model with all military installation leadership in the country.

LTG Halverson stated that the WSMTC’s vision to ensure that separating service members transition seamlessly into civilian employment, training and business opportunities is about “Do-ah not just Ho-ah” (actions not words).

### **Washington State Service Member for Life Summit AAR**

Three day event 21-23 Oct 14 that is being referred as “a national model.”

**Day One:** 900 JBLM and other senior military leaders throughout Washington listened to national, regional, state and corporate initiatives that assist service member’s transition.

**Day Two:** Seven industries career panels for transitioning service members. Hiring trends, best practices, 2,300 attendees in the morning, 1,300 in the afternoon.

**Day Three:** Career/Education Fair with 248 booths for businesses, training, and education opportunities. Over 3,000 service members and family members attended. There were 212 job offers extended on day 3 and then an additional 26 the following day.

Because of the success, JBLM was selected for another Summit on 22-23-24 September 2015.

**Small Business Entrepreneurship Workgroup Update - “How to Make the Small Business Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Veteran Ready “.** WA is leading the way in pioneering different programs for transitioning service members interested in choosing entrepreneurship and small business ownership.

The Workgroup is focused on enhancing the ecosystem necessary for an entrepreneur’s success. An ecosystem is a strategic planning model used by a community of providers interacting as a system, interconnected and interdependent. In particular, the energy and resources present within an ecosystem are collected and shared. With this in mind, The Work Group is not trying to reinvent the wheel, but instead they are organizing, translating, and connecting current resources for veterans in order to give the veteran entrepreneur a great chance for success. Offering this support is critical because veterans are highly entrepreneurial and likely to choose small business ownership. They are 45% more likely to be self-employed than non-veterans. Today, more than 1 in 10 small businesses are vet-owned. Enabling service members transitioning out of JBLM to make a wise choice about entrepreneurship is the work of the Small Business Entrepreneurship Work Group. In the presentation made to the Council the Work Group shared success stories on how the resources in our region helped service members start their own businesses. Multiple educational, federal and local resources such as VIBE, SBA, and Chamber of Commerce programs were introduced as part of the vital small business entrepreneur ecosystem of this region.

### **IslandWood 2014 Military Families and Veterans Action Summit Update**

Second year of the Summit convened by Sen Patty Murray that brings together a collection of people and organizations from non-profit, government, military, philanthropy, and academic leaders that combine forces and develop solutions for the true needs of veterans and families to fill the gap between the service member’s exit from service and reintegration into civilian life.

2014 Military Families and Veterans Action Summit Update on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RpyucilueH0>

Each of the co-chairs from the four Action Summit sectors updated the group: 1) Employment, 2) Education, 3) Military Families, and 4) Outdoor Recreation and Health.

#### **Public Sector Survey Results – Results of an ASK**

Update on the formal ASK from June 2014 that requested a Public Sector Survey on best practices for hiring veterans. Survey focused on four areas: 1) Data collection, 2) Recruitment strategies, 3) Veteran on-boarding, and 4) best practices. In early 2015, a private sector survey will be sent out. Once the results are consolidated, training workshops will be presented at the next Washington State Service Member for Life Summit in Sep 2015.

#### **Results Washington Update –**

Employment of veterans in state government continues to exceed the general labor force. While the percentage of overall veterans in state government has steadily declined over the past several years, this is largely been driven by retirement of Vietnam Era Veterans. In contrast, Post-Vietnam veteran employment in state government has remained constant. Additionally, hires of post-Vietnam Era Veterans, which declined during and immediately following the recession, has increased by 40% in the past year due to several initiatives including: (1) participation in JBLM's NW Edge Program; (2) implementation of a Veteran Fellowship program; (3) participation in the Cammo2Commerce OJT program; and (4) mobilizing volunteers through the state's Veterans Employee Resource Group (VERG).

#### **WSMTC Webpage Update –**

WSMTC webpage is operational as of 3 December 2014: <http://www.dva.wa.gov/about-wdva/washington-state-military-transition-council-wsmtc>

Each Track Workgroup has their own webpage and can coordinate with WDVA, WSMTC PM, Frank O'Donnell, [franko@dva.wa.gov](mailto:franko@dva.wa.gov), to populate their page. Track Workgroups can coordinate for WDVA to provide information briefs on the WDVA website to each Track Workgroup meetings.

#### **Education MOU Update –**

Signed on 21 November 2014. Added more structure and revised the way that partners can sign up as a supportive school. Meeting 8 keys to success set forth by the Obama Administration. Colleges and University must update every two years. Working with 30+ current schools to update certificates.

#### **Career and Technical Track Workgroup Update –**

Recommended ways to improve WSMTC and Track Workgroup communications. Also offered to JBLM TAP-SFL program that their group is willing to increase participation in TAP classes. In CY15, they are working to expand existing programs and more jobs to transitioning service members.

#### **Employment Track Workgroup Update –**

1) Workforce Central will hire a staff to help our committee; 2) In conjunction with WA state OFM and JBLM SFL-TAP, will complete NW Edge Plus program curriculum and a train the trainer curriculum; 3) Develop a budget to launch NW Edge Plus outside of JBLM; 4) Increase the number of NW Edge Plus participants served; 5) Identify and endorse, by the council, 6-7 job fairs/career fairs/hiring fairs; 6) Roll out and analyze the private sector employer survey; 7) Use the public and private employer survey results to develop a training curriculum to help employers increase the employment rate of veterans. Best practices training will be presented at the Next Summit in Sep 2015.

### **Higher Education Track Workgroup –**

Reviewed the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) and SB 5969 and what it means for prior learning skills and for Washington state higher education institutions. Overview of the PLA conference that took place on 11/21/14. Update on Higher Ed Work group, subgroups: PLA Group, Website group and 3 Pillars groups.

### **CY15 WSMTC Way Ahead –**

Introduction of Frank O'Donnell as the WDVA WSMTC liaison.

CY15 Themes and Goals:

- Validate transition program activities as they relate to employment
- Expansion
- Synchronize veteran military key events
- Increase Awareness and Marketing

January 27, 2015 Strategy Session

- Strategic Planning Committee and Advisory Group
- Data Share Pilot discussion

### **Next WSMTC meetings – Need volunteers to host event.**

March 17, 2015 – Yakima (T)

July 21, 2015 – Tacoma (T)

November 17, 2015 – Everett (T)

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